CLAIMS

1. A data storage medium, comprising:

a substrate supporting a data storage region for storing readable data, and being subjected in normal use to be to motion when read;

a reservoir attached to the substrate and located in proximity to the data storage region for storing a flowable chemical agent and so arranged that the said chemical agent can flow from the reservoir to interact with the data storage medium and permanently interfere with the readability of the data;

wherein the chemical agent is retained in the reservoir substantially solely by liquid surface phenomena, and wherein in normal use force associated with the motion tends to overcome the action of the liquid surface phenomena and cause the chemical agent to flow from the reservoir.

2. A data storage medium according to claim 1, wherein the data storage region comprises a data storage layer.

3. A data storage medium according to claim 1, wherein the chemical agent interacts with the data storage medium by damaging part of the data storage region.

4. A data storage medium according to claim 3, wherein the data storage medium comprises a reflective layer in which data is readable by variations in reflection, and the chemical agent interacts with the data storage medium by changing the reflection of the reflective layer.

5. A data storage medium according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is arranged in use to be rotated, and the force associated with the rapid motion comprises centrifugal force.

6. A data storage medium according to claim 1, wherein the reservoir is elongate and has an outlet for the chemical agent at one end, and wherein the reservoir is only partially filled at the end further from the outlet.

7. A data storage medium according to claim 6, wherein the substrate is rotated about an axis in use, the force associated with the motion comprises

centrifugal force, and the elongate reservoir is a circular arc centered on the axis of rotation.

8. A data storage medium according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is arranged to be caused to flow from the reservoir by an effective acceleration greater than 100 m/s^2.

9. A data storage medium according to claim 8, wherein the liquid is arranged to be caused to flow from the reservoir by an effective acceleration of about 200 m/s^2.

10. A data storage medium rotated about an axis in use and comprising:

a data storage region;

an elongate reservoir forming a circular curve centered on the axis; and

a chemical agent capable of interacting with the data storage region and permanently reducing the readability of the data;

wherein the chemical agent is stored in the elongate reservoir, and is arranged to be released from the reservoir by centrifugal force to interact with the data storage region when the medium is rotated in use.

11. A data storage medium according to claim 10, wherein the reservoir has an outlet for the chemical agent at one circumferential end, and wherein the reservoir is only partially filled at the end further from the outlet.

12. A data storage medium according to claim 10, wherein the data storage region comprises a data storage layer.

13. A data storage medium according to claim 10, wherein the chemical agent interacts with the data storage medium by damaging part of the data storage region.

14. A data storage medium according to claim 13, which is an optical storage medium having a reflective layer in which data is readable by variations in reflection, and the chemical agent interacts with the data storage medium by changing the reflection of the reflective layer.

15. A data storage medium according to claim 10, wherein the chemical

agent is arranged to reduce the readability of a part of the data necessary for locating or interpreting other data on the disc.

16. A data storage medium according to claim 10, which is arranged in use to be rotated at a speed greater than 500 rpm.

17. A data storage medium according to claim 16, which is arranged in use to be rotated at a speed of about 1000 rpm.

18. A data storage medium according to claim 10, which is a disc, wherein the data storage region is an annular region, and wherein the reservoir is radially inward of the annular region, and wherein the liquid is arranged to flow outwardly under the action of centrifugal force to the data storage region.

19. A data storage medium according to claim 18, wherein the liquid flows from the reservoir to an annular second reservoir to which a radially inner part of the data storage region is exposed.

20. A data storage medium according to claim 10, wherein the liquid is retained in the reservoir substantially by surface tension.

21. A data storage medium according to claim 10, wherein the reservoir is from about 0.03 mm to about 0.4 mm across in the narrowest direction.

22. A data storage medium according to claim 10, wherein the liquid comprises a reagent selected from the group consisting of citric acid and sodium chloride in aqueous solution.

23. An optical disc, comprising:

a reflective layer from which data may be read; and

a reservoir for a liquid reagent that can alter the properties of the reflective layer to interfere with reading of the data;

wherein the reservoir is radially inward of the data on the reflective layer;

wherein the liquid is retained in the reservoir substantially by liquid surface phenomena; and

wherein centrifugal force in normal reading of the disc is sufficient to

overcome the surface phenomena and cause radially outward flow of the liquid to interact with the reflective layer.

24. An optical disc according to claim 23, wherein the reservoir is elongate and extends around the center of the disc.

25. An optical disc according to claim 24, wherein the reservoir has an outlet at one end, and is partially filled with liquid reagent at the other end.

26. An optical disc according to claim 23, wherein the liquid reagent flows from the reservoir to contact a lead-in section at the inner edge of the reflective layer.

27. An optical disc according to claim 23, wherein the reservoir is from about 0.03 mm to about 0.4 mm wide in its narrowest direction.